(ख) क्या सरकार ने इस संबंध में किसी अधिकारी की जिम्मेदारी निश्चित की है, यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है ?

इस्पात मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री सन्तोष मोहन देव) : (क) और (ख) संसद सदस्यों और राज्यों के विधायकों तथा अन्य अति विशिष्ट व्यक्तियों से प्राप्त पत्रों के प्रबोधन और उन्हें निपटाने के लिए निर्धारित प्रक्रिया का इस्पात मंत्रालय में अनुपालन किया जा रहा है । यह सुनिश्चित करने के लिए भी सतत रूप से ध्यान दिया जाता है कि इस प्रकार के पत्रों के उत्तर में विलम्ब न हो इस आधार पर कि इस मंत्रालय के नियंत्रणाधीन सरकार क्षेत्र के उपक्रमों से वास्तविक टिप्पणी/रिपोर्ट प्राप्त नहीं हुई है । इस आशय के विशेष अनुदेश जारी किए गए हैं कि ऐसे पत्रों के उत्तर प्राप्त होने के दो सप्ताह की अवधि के भीतर भेज दिये जाएं ।

संसद सदस्यों से प्राप्त पत्रों की संख्या के बारे में विवरण समेकित किया जा रहा है और सदन-पटल पर रख दिया जाएगा ।

Setting up a ship Breaking Yard

1661. SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to set up a ship breaking yard in Kutch region in Gujarat in the Eighth Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, the details thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) Establishment of ship breaking yard falls within the purview of the State Governments. It is reported by the Government of Gujarat that there is no proposal under their consideration to set up a ship breaking yard in Kutch Region in the Eighth Five Year Plan.

(b) Does not arise.

इस्पात के मूल्यों पर रियायत

1662. **चौधरी हरमोहन सिंह** : क्या इस्पात मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि इस्पात की कम बिक्री के कारण इस्पात के मूल्य पर रियायत दी जाती है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं;

(ग) यह रियायत कितनी मात्रा में दी जाती है; और

(घ) क्या सरकार इस्पात से संबंधित लघु उद्योगों को भी यह रियायत देने पर विचार कर रही है ?

इस्पात मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री सन्तोष मोहन देव) : (क) और (ख) 16 जनवरी, 1992 से लोहे तथा इस्पात के वितरण तथा मूल्यन पर से नियंत्रण समाप्त कर दिये जाने के पश्चात मुख्य उत्पादक अपने उत्पादित लोहे तथा इस्पात के मूल्यों का निर्धारण करने के लिए स्वतंत्र हैं । वर्धित उत्पादन और मांग में मन्दी होने के परिणामस्वरूप मुख्य उत्पादकों के यहां मालसूची बढ़ गयी है । बाजार की स्थिति को ध्यान में रखते हुए इस्पात के उत्पादक अपने ग्राहकों को उधार, मात्रा से जुड़ी छूट इत्यादी जैसी वाणिज्यिक सुविधाएं प्रदान किये हैं ।

(ग) इस प्रकार की वाणिज्यिक सुविधाओं का ब्यौरा देना इस्पात संयंत्रों के वाणिज्यिक हित में नहीं है ।

(घ) इस प्रकार की वाणिज्यिक सुविधाएं लघु इकाइयों सहित सभी ग्राहकों को देय हैं ।

Growth of Indian Iron and Steel Industries

1663. SHRIMATI CHANDRIKA ABHINANDAN JAIN : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have examined the report submitted by the Task Force set up for preparing an action plan for the growth of Indian Iron and Steel Industries over the next 20 years; and

(b) if so, the details thereof together with Government decision on various recommendations made by it ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Some of the important recommendations of the Task Force are given in the statement (See below). Government have accepted the recommendations in principle, and are in the process of taking further action to implement the same.

Statement

Some of the important recommendations of the Task Force, which have been suggested with a view to achieving the target of domestic steel production of 67 million tonnes (crude steel) by 2011 A.D. devolve around Government initiatives which, in the main are as follows :—

— Formation of an autonomous National Standing Commission on the lines of MITI of Japan, comprising industry leaders and Government representatives, to conceptualise and monitor long/short term plans with targetted goals, so as to facilitate matching infrastructural development.

— Ensuring proper linkages of raw materials, energy and other utility services with competitive pricing and also expeditious clearance from environmental and other angles.

— facilitating proper infrastructural arrangements for road, railway and sea transport at reasonable prices.

— Introduction of a basket of fiscal incentives to facilitate rapid growth of the industry on the lines adopted by countries like Japan, South Korea, Taiwan and Thailand.

— Special thrust on R&D investment with emphasis on futuristic technologies.

— Concomitant institutional reform with special emphasis on restructuring and reorganisation of public sector enterprises, so as to provide for requisite functional autonomy.

Setting Up Steel Industry In Punjab

1664. SHRI IQBAL SINGH : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to set up Steel Industry in Public and Private Sectors in the state of Punjab;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) to (c) Central Government do not propose to set up a steel plant in the public sector in the State of Punjab. Under the new Industrial Policy announced in July, 1991, no Government approval is required for the establishment of steel plants in the private sectors except for locations within 25 kms. from the periphery of standard urban area limits of a city having a population of more than ten lakhs as per 1991 census.

Modernisation Of Furnace Industry

1665. SHRI IQBAL SINGH : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Furnace Industry needs tremendous improvement in technology in view of expansion and massive modernisation of a number of steel plants in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what are the proposals for bringing advanced technology for improving quality and reliability of its products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) and (b) There is scope for technological upgradation in Indian Electric Arc Furnaces used for steel making since many of the existing furnaces are of small size and are not energy efficient. Use of various technological measures such as ultra high powered AC/DC Furnaces, oxy fuel burners, scrap pre-heater, water-cooled panels, etc. will help the industry to achieve higher productivity and energy efficiency.

(c) The Government has already liberalised the policy for import of advanced technology. Steel is included in the list of high priority industries for which there is a provision for automatic approval of import of technology upto a specified monetary limit. Import of drawings and designs is also allowed without any restriction.

Mining At Kiri Booth

1666. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Bihar had recently issued notice to the Steel Authority of India Limited to stop mining at Kiri Booth, Western Singhbhum;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is the reaction of the Central Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Divisional Forest Officer (DFO), Chaibasa, District Singhbhum West, Government of Bihar issued a notice dated 29-3-1993 to SAIL, to close down the activities at Kiriburu/Meghahatuburu Iron Ore Mines of Steel Authority of India Limited for non-renewal of 1936.10 hectares of mining lease in pursuance of which the Mine authorities had to close down operations at Kiriburu/Meghahatuburu mines from 2 p.m. on 1-4-1993. Later on the intervention of the State Government the operations at Kiriburu/Meghahatuburu (Mines) was resumed at 6 p.m. on 2-4-1993.